

[No Report.]

FEBRUARY 15, 1845.

Read, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BARNARD, from the select committee on the memorial of the National Institute, reported the following bill :

A BILL

In relation to the collections and deposits of the National Institute for the Promotion of Science.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 the sum of fifteen thousand dollars be and the same hereby is,
4 appropriated for the use and benefit of the National Institute for
5 the promotion of science: *Provided, That* said institute shall,
6 within sixty days after the passage of this act, deposite in the
7 Department of State sufficient evidence of the legal assent of said
8 institute to the following provisions, which, in case such assent
9 be duly given, are hereby declared to be an amendment of the
10 act of Congress by which said institute was incorporated; that
11 is to say: All property, of every kind whatsoever, now belong-
12 ing to said institute, or which shall be hereafter acquired by it,
13 and all the rights of said institute over property left or to be left
14 in deposite with said institute, shall absolutely vest in the United
15 States, and be placed in the charge of the board of management
16 of said institute, as trustees for the use and benefit of the United

17 States. The board of management shall consist of the Secreta-
18 ries of State, the Treasury, War, and the Navy, the Postmaster
19 General, and the Attorney General; and, in addition, of not more
20 than six members of said institute, to be elected according to the
21 provisions of the charter of said corporation. All the collections
22 and deposits of said institute shall be arranged and kept for pub-
23 lic exhibition in the city of Washington, and shall not be sold,
24 disposed of, or removed from said city, except by way of ex-
25 change for equivalent objects. And whenever a building or
26 buildings shall be erected under the authority of Congress, in
27 execution of the trust assumed by the United States in accepting
28 the bequest made to the United States by James Smithson,
29 esquire, designed for a library and a museum, or cabinet, accom-
30modation shall be provided for the reception and exhibition of
31 the collections and deposits of the said National Institute; the
32 same shall remain under the charge and supervision of the board
33 of management of the said National Institute; but shall be, at
34 all proper and convenient times, free and accessible to all persons
35 having the right of access to the library and museum of the
36 Smithsonian Institute.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the amount hereby
2 appropriated shall be expended under the direction of the afore-
3 said board of management, the accounts and vouchers thereof
4 being approved by the Department of State, and adjusted, accord-
5 ing to established usage, in the office of the First Auditor.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the said board of
2 management shall have power to appoint one person as secretary
3 and treasurer to said board, who shall give bond for the faithful
4 performance of his duties in the penal sum of ten thousand dol-
5 lars, and to appoint and employ such other persons as may be
6 necessary for the preservation and arrangement of the collections
7 of said institute, at such rates of compensation as shall be fixed
8 by said board, and approved by the President of the United
9 States. A majority of said board shall constitute a quorum for
10 the transaction of business: *Provided,* That not less than three
11 of the public officers hereby declared to be ex officio members
12 of said board shall be present, and a part of such quorum.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the
2 duty of the secretary and treasurer of the board of management
3 annually to lay before Congress, through the State Department,
4 a full account of the proceedings of said board, of its expendi-
5 tures, and of the property received and under its care, together
6 with estimates of any further expenditures, with the reasons
7 therefor, and any reports touching the proceedings, progress, or
8 interests of said institute.